

Media consolidation is a problem in our country. Having read about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-John Kerry documentary days before the presidential election, I am concerned. Their plan is an example of the problems posed by huge media conglomerates -- which the FCC is allowing to get huger all the time.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. In the case of this alleged documentary, it has a blatantly political agenda. What happened to the FCC's equal time rule? Shouldn't that -- at the very least -- have come into play here?

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Allowing a big company like Sinclair to, by default, put hate-based vitriol into a presidential election is wrong. This is a threat to our democracy -- which the FCC's rules are supposed to strengthen.

These are the PUBLIC airwaves. The license renewal process for a company that has abused the public trust in this way needs to hold that company responsible. Please hold Sinclair's stations responsible when their licenses come up for renewal.

Thank you.